

SPLASH 2004: NOAA Ship McArthur Weekly Science Report

2 September 2004
R. Pitman, Cruise Leader

SCIENCE SUMMARY: 1 September 2004

Short week but I need to get the weekly report back on schedule.

We left fabulous Dutch Harbor (not on travel posters anywhere) at 1000 on 1 Sept, right on time, with our 6 new scientists onboard (John Brandon, Mark Deakos, Lisa Munger, Amanda Cummins, Leigh Torres, and Bob Pitman). We had to grit our teeth and pass through dozens of humpbacks (and 7 sightings of killer whales) right outside the harbor, in great weather, because these may have been worked already by people stationed at Dutch this summer. We waited until we got 18 miles offshore then put the launch in 2 min after starting effort and left it in until dusk; this resulted in 29 good fluke photos of humpbacks. Thus we start Leg 3 with a 'pop' (something between a whimper and a bang) as we enter the land of fog and fur seals.

Sightings and Effort Summary for Marine Mammals

Date	Start/Stop Time	Position	Total Distance	Avg. Beaufort
090104	1308 2033	N54:18.53 W166:32.83 N54:43.23 W166:43.67	4.2 nmi	1.5

CODE	SPECIES	TOT#
037	Orcinus orca	3
074	Balaenoptera physalus	11
076	Megaptera novaeangliae	6
	TOTAL	20

Note: Dall's & harbor porpoises and pinnipeds are not included.

Biopsies (Juan Carlos Salinas)

Species	Weekly	Cumulative
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Humpback whale	31	308
Fin whale	1	30
Blue whale	0	4
Sperm whale	0	6
Killer whale	0	28
Baird's beaked whale	0	3
Dall's porpoise	0	1
Cuvier's beaked whale*	0	1
Grand Total	32	381

*dead when sampled

Photo-Project (Holly Fearnbach)

Species	Weekly #	Cumulative #
Humpback whale		
Catalog-quality flukes	24	514
Fin whale dorsal IDs	5	52
Sperm whale fluke IDs	1	13
Blue whale dorsal IDs	2	5
Minke whale dorsal IDs	0	1
Killer whale dorsal IDs	11	148
Baird's beaked whales	0	15
Northern right whale dolphins*	0	1
Pacific white-sided dolphins*	0	3
Cuvier's beaked whale (dead)	0	1
Steller sea lion	0	1

*number of groups photographed

Oceanographic Operations (Steven Barry)

Date	Number CTDs
9/01	1

Acoustics Squeakly Report (Shannon Rankin)

(Stay tuned!)